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### THE EARLY SHOPPER.

These are the days when the Christmas shopper who took good edvice and did it early may sit back in comfort and enjoy the hurry and scurry of those who always think there is "plenty of time." There is out of the rush hour.

### AGAINST THAW AT LAST

Something to cause a deep breath

There can be judicial proceedings startled by such an experience. A brutal slaying of a boy by the father of his young wife, to bring everthe slayer. It was a dumfounding cost for running the business? verdict, denounced by the judge sitting at the trial, nobody was liable commodity. Every man's business ment, shall be the ideal. The splendid

and justice.

degrade elemental dignity into scan- be permitted. dalous buffoonery and distort justice itself into monstrous deformity, law and the majestic authority which it ought to represent are brought into into contempt in all.

our judicial institution.

York, having been extradited to that cases. State, not for being insane or for eed to try him for that, or will re- cannot be questioned.

He was locked up for being insane, public. Will it do its share? ater, either he became sane enough ept in the asylum; he had been course doesn't say the proper use of fund is sought are fifty-six children.

The substituted in the asylum; he had been course doesn't say the proper use of fund is sought are fifty-six children.

The substituted in the asylum; he had been course doesn't say the proper use of funds to some of the proper use of th he can't be kept in an asylum for the little people. insane. If he was insane, he can be Checks for contributions can be tion might have been extirpated in display at one of the banks.

punished for conspiracy.

spiracy, he would have to serve a knowledged. comparatively short term in prison and then would be released. The Supreme Court's determination is that the New York courts must determine between these alternatives; and along with this is the intimation that if New York doesn't so determine, then Thaw may have a chance on

habeas corpus to get his freedom. It is certainly a fearful and wonof its most illuminating develop- plished, and that this city needs. ments, as regards our judicial system, are yet to come.

### THE INSURANCE RATES.

The situation of the fire insurance time, of course, and perhaps some business in Washington, in view of It is not experimental; it has been Vienna and Berlin appear to imagine persons get enjoyment out of the the large increase in rates, is cer- done in other cities, with the re- that the little countries will suddenly cleventh-hour rush to the bargain tainly worthy of detailed inquiry by sult that some of them have proved change front and become allies, or counter, but on the whole that in- the proper authorities. There was a it possible to handle the garbage and, at least adopt a complaisant attitude. creasingly large number of people time when vigorous competition of by properly reclaiming and reduc- while the Turk is rehabilitated. It is who go about Christmas shopping local companies was an important ing the elements of value in it, turnleisurely have by far the best of it. element in the local insurance field. ing it to profit where now it repre- Just as Berlin failed to appreci-They have time to get what they That competition served to demoral- sents only cost and waste. Washing- ate what civilization would think of want and no doubt come much ize rates, according to the outside ton, we have been told, produced a the rape of Belgium, so it has failed nearer doing it. They have the fur- companies, which complained that very high class of garbage, which to gauge the Christian world's emother satisfaction of knowing that they were unable to get their share may or may not be complimentary tions at prospect of Turkey becom- end the war. The name of it is Time. they have helped materially to of the business. As a result they to the domestic economies of the ing one member of a triumvirate of lessen the strain and work upon the finally came into the field and wrote town. Anyhow, it signified that unstorekeepers and their overburdened business at rates which made it im- der reduction it would turn out a Neither the great outside neutral Looks like a dastardly trick to atclerks. Each year has shown per- possible for the local companies to very high proportion of valuable states nor the little countries that tract attention from the European ceptible improvement in the situa- do business profitably; and the local soap-making grease, fertilizer, and have suffered so much at the hands war. tion, and those whose forethought underwriting power was greatly fe- the like. The plan is completely of the Turk, will be misled to such The President may be able to save and consideration are responsible for duced. Then, when this factor had successful and profitable in places an extent. Dragging Turkey in was the country from the horrors of war. Opportunity No. 4.-Let's All Back the improvement are justly entitled been lessened in importance, the where it has been operated. Why just such another error as the violato the pleasure they feel in being the province of to the pleasure they feel in being companies announced the increase in not here?

Washington is reputed one of the best insurance risk towns in the peatedly urged its importance as a as public opinion in this world, or No revolving doors in the country. country. The fire protection facilities are magnificent, and the result necessaries of living at lower costs. the world. of national relief is the decision of has been apparent in a low ratio of The Superintendent of Markets has the Supreme Court of the United losses, though in recent times there outlined his plan, which is modest States against a prolongation of the has been a period of unusually heavy and unambitious in the extreme com-Thaw mockery of justice in New losses, which, with rates low, has hit the companies hard.

The question at bottom seems to be whether the town has gotten in that are inexpressibly shocking and the past, and will get in the future yet not destructive of public faith in under the new rates, a reasonable the law as it is administered. In the amount of indemnity for the dollar last few days New York has been invested in insurance premiums. It it has been unremitting. costs money to manage the business; nobody questions that, or that it is perfectly legitimate for it to cost a good deal more to the whole lasting shame for herself as well as body of insured than they can expect gony over the crime, received a to get back in indemnities. How outlined the purpose of the present quick, almost a headlong acquittal of much is the reasonable measure of administration to make a thoroughly west of Rockville, and restoration of

to mistake it for anything but a solidity depends on his carrying a reaudlin performance of an unfit jury proper insurance. He cannot expect quan quite justifies the belief that a ciscrediting not the very name of to borrow money on his home or on urisprudence but the particular his business, unless he can show that welve men who on their sacred he is insured against the danger of out the plans which have been outoaths declared, in the words of the fire. It is an absolutely necessary lined in general terms. protesting judge, that murder is not basis of credit. But when a change of 5 per cent in the cost of another An exhibition like that can dum- public service—the transportation of nicipal government, that will not fail ound and sicken the public; but no freight by rail-is received as ar man who can recognize the differ- important concession to the railonce between an intelligent act and roads; when that concession is oran irresponsible emotion believes dered by a public tribunal, after rethat it is an indictment of all law peated and detailed investigations; the institutions of a model city, and there is ground for inquiry whether in some others it sadly lacks. The When, however, because of the an entirely private interest ought to things the Commissioners have sugconflicts of legal acts and processes have the power to raise insurance gested do not represent a very large in the different States and in the rates many times 5 per cent, and no ation the millions of a man-killer appeal be possible to any regulatory like Thaw can turn into nonsense not authority. If the recent increase in simple facts but solemn statutes, can rates in Washington is justified by make ducks and drakes not of empty- the whole situation in Washington, headed jurors but of able prosecutors | the fact ought to be made very clear; and judges of the highest courts, can if it is not justified, it ought not to

## THE "OPPORTUNITIES"

The Associated Charities does not sublic disfepute in many places and make an encouraging report on the tion that might arise if Roumania inflow of funds with which to finance and Greece should enter the war. Scout Reports of Plot The highest tribunal in the land the "Fourteen Opportunities" for ef- These two countries would be unomes in the Thaw scandal, as it too fective charity work for the coming able to make themselves thoroughly often must do, to restore respect for year. The public has a few more effective against Turkey if they days before Christmas, and the con- should have to fight both Turkey and Corregidor island fortress, at the en-But the case is nowhere near its ditions demand an earnest appeal in Bulgaria. Fighting Turkey alone, end yet. Thaw is to go back to New behalf of these peculiarly deserving in alliance with Russia and Great

It would be difficult to find a way being a criminally insane person, but to do practical charity work more correct, diplomacy has won another or conspiracy in connection with his effectively than in making up this victory for the allies. To put it perescape from the asylum. Now, it is fund, or series of funds, which will haps more correctly, bad diplomacy alleged by some authorities that an be so managed as to insure that has inflicted another defeat on the nsane person cannot conspire; he not a dollar will go to any expense, Germanic combination. That combisn't responsible for his acts, and so any overhead charges, any possible nation dragged Turkey into the war, cannot be punished for conspiracy. purpose save the expenses of the apparently with the idea that Bul-He has been ordered back to New families whose cases have been care- garia and Roumania would take York for conspiracy, and the questigliantly investigated, whose needs have their side or remain neutral. It seems ion is whether New York will pro- been calculated, and whose deserts to have been believed at Berlin that Physician Sees His

commit him to the asylum. If, in- Right now is the time to make enemies would all side with Turkey, tead of trying him for the alleged the contributions that will insure in a world crisis of this kind; an ascrime for which the Supreme Court that these homes may be maintained, sumption that could hardly have ends him back, the State locks him these families kept together, they been more erroneous. The Balkan appendix parties in his time, and conup, then, it was intimated by Chief children given a chance to be reared states have their jealousies; but the Justice White, he may have a chance under the best conditions. The full- courses of the centuries have ino get before the Federal court again est publicity has been given to the stilled, underneath 'all these incifacts concerning the different cases; dental sentiments, a hatred of the The substance of the matter seems the Associated Charities stands Turk that cannot possibly overlook to be something like this: Thaw ready to furnish any more detail the fact that right now is the time was insane when he killed White; a concerning any particular case. The to drive him from Europe. ury has said so, and that settles it. whole matter is in the hands of the Bringing Turkey into the war as

o be legally guilty of conspiracy, the statement of the Associated inevitable sentiments of Christian nd did conspire, or else he con- Charities this morning, \$2,949 to Europe and of the Christian world. pired without being sane. If he was make up the fund sought. In these Turkey in Europe is an anachronism, breme Court, of course, doesn't say the proper use of funds, handled un- Poles saved Vienna, as Charles Marwhether he was sane or insane when der the most careful supervision, for tel and his Franks saved western Eu-

The Washington Times office or coldressed to the Ass have been set both a long would

The District Commissioners outderful mix, with prospects that some things that other cities have accom-

was head of the engineering division. work was not quite finished; and now

ket establishment, The Times has re- derstand that there is such a thing means to help the people get their that it is really the greatest force in outlined his plan, which is modest and unambitious in the extreme compared to the great projects along the same line that various other cities have undertaken and are on the point of undertaking.

Need of a new municipal hospital has been recognized for years, and the effort of the authorities to get

The idea of a reformatory that shall not be a prison, but a model of really reformatory effort and facilities has been discussed for a considerable time. Commissioner Newman forming of men, not their punish-Insurance is a highly important work that has been done at Occosocial service of the most important kind can be performed by working

There is a social-service tone about the whole program of the muto earn for it the commendation of the great body of public opinion which nowadays is thinking along these lines. Washington has some of investment, considering the size and needs of this city; they are not vis-

## THE TURKISH MISTAKE.

Bulgaria, it is reported very circumstantially, has given assurances to Great Britain, France, and Russia that she will remain neutral. These assurances have been secured with special reference to the situa-

Britain, is a very different matter. So, if the report received today is Turkey's natural and traditional

the ally of the Germanic nations was There is still needed, according to an offense against the natural and he conspired. If he was sane, he the maintenance of children deprived rope on the neid of fours. Austria pounds a sweet totalo, M. can be punished for conspiracy; but of the ordinary means of support for might yet have been Mohammedan Maynard begged to be relieved to a system of the potato, which is a but for Sobieski; Christian civiliza-

Times office, or addressed to the As- have been set back a long way, if Insane, he can be kept in the sociated Charities, 923 H street the Turk instead of the Christian asylum indefinitely. Guilty of con- northwest, and will be promptly ac- Pole had triumphed in that tremendous struggle under the walls of Vienna, then the southeastern outpost A MUNICIPAL PROGRAM. of Occidental civilization and cul-

> That was the westernmost irruplined a program of municipal better- tion of the Turks; and from that day year in more ways than one ments which they hope to secure, at to this Europe has viewed the Turk the meeting of the Monday Evening as a disgrace to its system. The feel-Club last night. They will doubt- ing against him has grown stronger less be set down by some people as as the civilization of other parts of dreamers; but they are dreaming of Europe has expanded and blossomed. modern nations has become more and For example, Major Kutz, Engi- more impressive. So Europe kept neer Commissioner, talked about a hands off while the little Balkan of big railroad wrecks. Think twice garbage plant. The idea was worked communities almost completed the before you buy hubby that pink and out to the point of definite plans a work that Europe as a whole ought blue one. few years ago when Major Judson long ago to have accomplished. The

tion of Belgium; an error which be- Christmas trees. Concerning a new municipal mar- speaks a medieval incapacity to un-

# **2-DAY TRIP TICKETS**

Metropolitan Branch Commut ers Also Will Ask for Continuance of Family System.

day round-trip tickets to all points modern establishment, in which re- the twenty-five and fifty trip family commutation tickets is to be made by the Metropolitan Branch Commuters Association, the organization formed by commuters on this branch of the Battimore and Ohio railroad.

Though the Interstate Commerce that didn't make any difference, Wasn't Commission suspended most of the ad- she going to have children who were vances in commutation fares made by the railroad, it has developed that tar- going to be richer than all of the or iffs withdrawing the two-day excur-sion tickets and the twenty-five and lifty trip family tickets were permitted to become effective.

tickets was made effective only beyond Rockville, where there is no electric line competition. This withdrawal discourages Sunday visiting along the line, it is declared, and results in hardship to many residents and Frederick counties.

The executive committee took up the question of a conference with under the wasted bosom, because there representatives of the railroad, as were four more chances to squander he suggested by company officials, but love. no definite action toward such a meeting was taken. Members of the com-nittee believed that it was not a

ended this meeting. The question of a meeting with rail-road officials to discuss a possible compromise on rates will be post-poned until after the holidays. It was ported to the committee that the inancial and organization work of he committee is proceeding satisfac-

War Department officials.

News disputches from Manila reported the disarming of two companies of company up to our flat. An' there a sittin' on a chair an' all!" the disarming of two companies of Philippine, Scouts by regular army roops after the discovery of a plot to ree the inmates of the Corregidor rison. The fact that neither the Adstant General, nor the Bureau of In-ular Affairs had received any report of the incident was taken to that the trouble was of small conse

Neither the War nor the Navy Departments had any advices to con-irm reports of Japanese and British anding parties to search the

AURORA, Ill., Dec. 22.-Dr. W. P. Sherman has conducted many little appendix parties in his time, and considered that he knew all there was to know about that particular organ. But he has just learned what it is to have one cut out. He watched the But he has just learned what it is to have one cut out. He watched the surgeon, but from that of the Dr. J. W. MacDonald, his friend, wa

the man with the knife. He begged Dr. Sherman to take an anesthetic, but the latter would not.
"It was painful," said Dr. Sherman,
"but it was a valuable lesson to me."

Raised 12-Pound Potato. FORSYTH, Ga., Dec. 22-A twelvemith on his patch here caused Z. M Maynard, a local warehouseman to that Smith could raise. Mayaned begged to be relieved to he all roads opened and the public utilization of unusual size has been on sich opened a conference.

# The Silver Lining

Edited by ARTHUR BAER.

Did the Mexicans ever stop to think that a bullet can stray both ways across the Rio?

Interstate Commerce Commission



until you're sure you kin afford alimony." Nicola Tesla has an invention t

New Jersey man claims to have found eighteen pearls in one oyster.

Pureau of Census finds more insanin the cities than in the country. Sure,

It's too late now to shop early. Have to think about something else.

about hollering for 80-cent gas? If you're going to give the old man a gold collar button for Christmas, hide it under the bureau. He'll never find it. Christmas only comes once a year,

which seems to be about twice too much:

# FOR YEARS HOMELESS AT LAST FINDS ONE

Mother Love Spurs Woman to Great Endeavor That Children May Have a Home.

(Continued from First Page.) was laid in her arms she just cuddled At a meeting of the executive committee of the Commuters' Association pertenday it was pointed out that the withdrawal of the two-day excursion. Things were pretty black just then since she was heaten and miss starved by her drunken husband. The were poorer still, and the rooms frightful to live in. But what or it? Weren't her children richer than hundreds of others? When the third and fourth came there was nothing but re-

under the wasted bosom, because there

joicing in the little orphan-girl heart

Then a blessing befell, and the drunkpressing question, in view of the suspension of rates by the Interstate commerce Commission, and that there was plenty of time for consideration.

L. Cabell Williamson, chalrman: J. G. Gurley, secretary: M. W. Phillips, E. W. Moore, and H. C. Armstrong at-leaded this merting. en man, who was the father, disappearhad been hard, and it was too much for rich babies were robbed of their heritage, she was put in a hospital, and they—they were put in orphan asylums. So as she lay in the hospital she prayed for strength and just as soon as she of was able to be up, she went to work, and the first thing she did was to go out and collect these babies!

She wasn't well at all, and they lived on bread and molasses and mother love in one room. There some good people found her, and not on the strength of On Corregidor Island

ther past story, but just because of what they saw there, they cleaned her out bag and baggage, and gave her a home. Two rooms and a kitchenette, with some

And the first week that they were there, five-year-old special ran down the street and met one of the good people

Just Like Other People. The mother was entertaining a caller for the first time in all of her life, "not

different at all, but just like other peo That night it turned cold, and the good person went down to see how things were at "the flat." She found the inmates, happy as kings, in one Covering them were layers of papers, but when she looked down newspapers, but when she looked down at the lages underneath, the visitor was that a comfort would be rather handy.

There was a movement like the flutter of a wing, as the babies were cud-Own Appendix Taken aled, the newspapers crackled indignantly, and the little orphan girl heart in the worn body thumped so pa'n'ally that a flush rose in the mother's checks.

> fine covers. Of course, a comfort came into that room lickety-split the next day, just the way things sometimes do tall from the skies. Then, knowing that there was one chance only of keeping that home, and fearing to dure face the mother with the knowledge that it couldn't last, it was made a Christmas Opportunity.

> This is only one of the fourteen op portunities to do good listed in The Times. It is a true story. Any con-tributions will be received either at The Times office, or by the Associated Charities, 923 H street northwest.

### Ohio Railroads Ask Repeal of "Two-Cent" Law

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 25 - The first suble move of railroads of Ohio in ; respective campaign for repeal of the beent passenger face law, is being taken today, when passenger agents of all roads operating in the State ar

# FOURTEEN XMAS **OPPORTUNITIES**

Here is YOUR chance to play Santa Claus and bring real happiness into the lives of your less fortunate brothers. The Times and the Associated Charities join in asking you to help. Every penny of your contribution will go directly to the family in which you are interested. The Washington Times will act as sponsor for the fund, The Khedive's uncle is now the and money will be received by The Christmas Editor, The Times office. Munsey Building.

> Opportunity No. 1 .- Eyes for the Blind. \$520.

A blind mother and a father whose eyesight is rapidly failing, face the problem of how to shelter, feed, and clothe their six little children, all of school age. Ten dollars a week is required to keep the home intact. But \$520 is required.

Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$142.70; G. E. R., \$10; Mrs. E. M. T., 812; F. L. E., 22; K. S. F., 35; F. S. A., \$1; S. R. F., \$10; J. H. D., \$1; J. P. J., \$5; N. H. S., \$2, Still needed, \$329.30.

Opportunity No. 2.-A Spartan Mother. \$208.

A widow struggling alone to make a home for her eight little ones. The amount required is \$308. Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$35. W. F. Hillebrand, \$10. A. L. B., \$5. F. L. E., \$2; J. C. Reed, \$5; Clara McAllister, \$7; K. S. F., \$6. F. S. A., \$1; Mrs. R. K., \$20; A. S. P., \$25; J. P. J., \$5. Still needed, \$29. Opportunity No. 3.-A Fourteen-

year-old Hero. \$260.

Martha. \$104. A colored man, growing blind, and urable to work, faces the prospect of having his whole support taken from him, Martha, a daughter, must remain in vocational school another year, when she will be a petent dressmaker, and can sup-t her father. Two dollars a

week, or \$104, is required. Contributions: Previously acknowledged, 256. H. H. G., 21; A Friend, 85; F. S. A., 21; D. B. P., 25; S. M. F., 32; G. A. F., 32; A Friend of Youth, 31, Still needed, 861.

Opportunity No. 5 .- Citizens in th Making. \$520. Alone, fighting against invalidism and poverty, this widow has for many years been doing her full duty in the training of three fatherless

children. Ten dollars per week, or this constructive home and health

Wiggs Again. \$260. A grandmother has undertaken to bring up her two orphan grand-children. There is a little boy and a little girl to be cared for.

Opportunity No. 6 .- Our Friend Mrs

Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$55. Still needed, \$205. Opportunity No. 7 .- The Brim of the Melting Pot. \$260.

Without relatives to help her, a thrifty German widow, handicapped by poor eyesight, is bringing up five bright American-born, future citizens, the oldest thirteen years. 45 per week, or \$260 for the year, is asked for a Christmas present. Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$77.50. F. S. A., \$1. Still need-

Opportunity No. 8 .- Never Say Die,

Forsaken by her husband and

two children, this mother refuses to surrender. Search is being made for the husband, but it is doubtful if he

Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$41. F. S. A., \$1; S. R. F., \$5; G. C. S., \$5. Still needed, \$210.

Opportunity No. 9 .- Enforced Separation. \$468. The mother of this family is facing the situation of separation from
her incurably ill husband, who is
receiving hospital care. She is working hard to make a good home for
her four little children, Unalded she
will fall in health and purpose. 39
per week is needed to keep these
children at home and happy with
their mother.

their mother.

Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$57. Miss A. D., \$2; F. S. A., \$1; Mrs. R. K., \$20; S. R. F., \$5; D. B. P., \$5; J. D., \$1; E. S. B., \$5; H L. B., \$5. Still needed, \$557.

Opportunity No. 10 .- A Homemaker At All Odds. \$468.

The father is serving a term in the penitentiary, while the mother, without any relatives, is trying to keep together her large family of children. There is a grandmother, a mother, and three small children to be provided for, and 19 a week is needed. Contributions; Previously acknowledged, \$28; M. M. H., \$1; M. A. H., \$2; F. L. H., \$2; M. A. W., \$25; F. S. A., \$1; J. F., \$2. Still needed, \$297.

Opportunity No. 11 .- Reporting Dividends on Last Year's Investments. \$364.

The society has assisted a desert-ed mother and four little children for a year, and has made an excellent housekeeper out of the former. Seven dollars a week is needed to keep the little family together another twelve Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$32. F. S. A., \$1; H. L. E., \$1. Still needed, \$330.

Opportunity No. 12 .- Neutrality in

Charity. \$260. A clever little French woman, whose husband is seriously ill in a hospital, has four little children to care for. The eldest child, a girl, is taking a business course. The other children also are attending school. Five dollars a week is required for this family.

Contributions: Previously acknowledged, 255. F. P., \$5; Mrs. R. K., \$30; S. R. F., \$5; J. P. F., \$4; A. F. B., \$5. Still needed, \$137.

Opportunity No. 13.-A Result

Timely Help. \$312.
The Associated Charities is assisting a widow and four children to eke out an existence. Six dollars a week will bring Christmas cheer to the family for a year.

Contributions: Previously acknowledged, \$27. Mrs. A. C. S. and daughter, \$5; H. L. E., \$1; S. R. F., \$5; Mrs. A. G. M., \$1. Still needed, \$273.

Opportunity No. 14. - Deserted.

Before the birth of her youngest child, three years ago, the father deserted the mother. The church and relatives have been assisting her. It will require \$200 from the outside to support the fam'ly for another year. another year. Contributions: Previously acknowledged, 809. J. T. E., St. P. F. M. \$1; M. L. M., \$1; E. H. B., \$1; Mrs. C.

# the work by which she supported her Still needed, \$177. Here Is Query Upon City's Government

Answers to Contest Question Will Shed Light Upon of the Capital on numerous occasions with the same idea in view. Prominent Experiment in Control of District That Marked Interesting Period.

# CONTEST QUESTION NO. 29

29. When was a territorial form of government established in Washington and when was it abandoned?

Answers are not to be submitted separately. One question aill be printed daily for thirty days. Pupils then must submit, in their own writing, answers to the thirty questions. Writing must be on one side of the paper only.

When was a territorial form of gov-1 to inquire before running the chance of When was a territorial form of government established in Washington, and when was it abandoned?

These rules, stated many times during the contest, follow:

ditions of The Times contest.

ons are to be submitted, and there are to conditions of subscription to The

Times necessary to enter. Decisions will be based first on ac-

Women Oppose Shipments

Of Arms to Other Nations

A resolution indorsing the Crosser

All answers must be in The Times office within one week of tomorrow, when the final question will be pubtional Competition turns attention of high school pupils to an interesting transition period in the history of Wash-Answers must be in the contestant's penmanship, written on one side of the paper only, and must bear the Without an understanding of the variname of the competitor.

Pupils of Central, Eastern, Western,
Business, and M Street High Schools
and McKinley and Armstrong Manual
Training Schools are eligible.

These rules cover the essential con-

ous municipal experiments tried here. students of Washington history can not hope to understand the present form of city government. For nearly a century Capital has been a problem, and even pects are causing study on Capitol Hill,

ington. upon that period when the Capital was governed by mayors, with a general system much like that of other American cities. The present commission form is evidence of the peculiar problems that enfront a large and thriving city, which Frincipals, teachers, and pupils of high schools in Washington assert that no competition of any sort in recent years the competition of the competition o aroused so much interest as The aroused so much interest as The manufacturers, was adopted at a meet- if the home-

MAIL BAG

(From The Times Readers.)

Communications to the Mail Bag must be written on one side of the naper only; must not exceed 200 words in length and must be signed with name and address of the sender. The publication of letters in The Times Mail Bag does not mean the endorsement by The Times of the opinions of the writer. The Mail Bag is moorn torum where the citizens of Washington can argue m of questions.

Indorses Times Plea For Municipal Lodging House.

To the Editor of the Mail Bag: I am heartily in sympathy with the suggestions made in the Mall Bag several days ago concerning the concentration of effort on the part of District residents for a modern municipal lodging house and an inchriate asylum Such reclamation work as is done in in-stitutions of this caliber is essential to the benefit of the community. IIt must he done in some manner, so why not do it under conditions which will bring the best results? Give us these new instiutions as soon as possible. One can never tell, especially one in moderate circumstances, when some one very near and dear to them may perchance be a ven to become a charge on the municipality, so let us prepare for emergencies. M. N. A.

Congressmen Eligible for District

To the Editor of the Mail Bag: It would be a great thing if Washington could some day find its municipal destinies in the control of some body that knew something about municipal affairs.-Times of December 16.
Congress undoubtedly contains mem

bers who, as aldermen in large cities, have, by study and experience, qualified themselves to provide for and direct unicipal develor Why are not such men put on the House of Representatives Committee on District of Columbia Affairs? Why is

any Congressman eligible for service on that committee who does not come that committee who does not come from a large city?

It is obvious that members, who have always lived in country villages, are absolutely without a conception of a standard for a city, and therefore hostille to the normal and conventional requirements of maintenance and growth of a city.

DAILY READER.

Community Christmas Tree Deserves

To the Editor of the Mail Bag: Washington should show liberality in responding to the call made for funds to finance the community Christmas tree plan. Last year it required nearly \$300 to pay the expenses of the under-taking, but the city was well repaid through the enjoyment that the occa-

Support.

sion furnished for the children of the city.

A. S. H.

Was Edison Plant Set On Fire? the Editor of the Mail Bag: A few days past I had the pleasure f conversing with a gentleman who is closely affiliated with Lieutenant Sterling, of the United States submarine flottline, now located, I believe, at Newport, R. I. I listened with the keenest inter-R. I. I listened with the keenest inter-est to his liberal answers to all of my questions, and what other information he volunteered. During the course of our conversation

our conversation, the new and as yet unknown Edison submarine was men-tioned, which led me to ask him if he tioned, which led me to ask him if he had considered the probability of why and by whom the Edison factory was recently destroyed by fire. The suggestive question startled him not a little. I wonder how many persons have thought of the probability of that dis-astrous conflagration being caused by an agent of some foreign power or powers? Is it unreasonable to believe our warrior friends across the sea are apprehensive of the great inventor's genius, and fear that, with his mighty

brain, he will produce an instrument of war which will make the United States defensively "invulnerable and offensive-ly irresistible," and by destroying the Edison plant hoped to at least delay the perfection of any plans the "wizard" may have?

H. M. L.

More Street Car Straps Needed. To the Editor of the Mail Bag: I am an habitual strap-holder on the East Capitol street car line-that is, I would be if there were more straps Please provide more straps. GOVERNMENT CLERK.

More "Rights" For Men, His Plea.

To the Editor of the Mail Eng: A large part of your valuable space has been taken up recently with discus sions on woman's suffrage and equal rights for women. Hundreds of Washstreet corners are monopolized by amastreet corners are monopolized by ama-teur orators on the same subject. Sup-posing that after several years' cam-paigning their dream should be real-ized; we should be perfectly justified in asking them. "What are you going to do with it?" What would "votes for women" and "equal rights for women" mean in our beloved District of Colum-bias. The men can't vote would an acbia? The men can't vote; would an exception be made in the case of the women? As far as I can see, our female citizens already have equal rights male citizens already have equal rights. They have the right to work for low wages; they are allowed to hang onto straps in the street cars the same as the men do; and they can tell Congresshow things ought to be—and then take what they get. Let's get up a few "rights" for men in Washington before any further in the "sound rights".

we go any further in the "equal right matter. A MERE MAN Urges Public Golf Course For Washington.

to the Editor of the Mail Bag At infrequent intervals one read something about the proposed publigolf course in lower Potomac Park, but

rough sketch on paper. Washington has need for this im provement, and any other city in the country would have had it years ago t such a park were available. It will ost no more to construct the course now than later, and we are missing all the recreation it might be bringing. The laying out of the course does not have to wait till all the other proposed im-

ovements are completed.

I have played over public courses in number of cities, and I have yet to earn of one that is not thronged every day of the week during at least six months of the year. Its benefits are too numerous to recount here, but I wish to assure Congress and the Dis rict authorities that hundreds of play Decisions will be based first on acturacy, and next on English compolition, form, neatness, and penmanship
ing an opportunity to "tee off"
the answers.

GOLI

Servants Scapegoats Per Domestic Inefficiency.

To the Editor of the Mail Fac. Complainings from the cusewives about the servant supply

has aroused so much interest as The Times contest.

The Would tremble if I had to take that examination myself," remarked to the text of the text of the contest, and is an authority on the history of Washington, authority on the history of Washington, authority on the history of Washington, and answers to all contest, and answers to all contest of them can easily be ascertained by a the volume. The island avenue compared to the contest, and answers to all contest of them can easily be ascertained by a the volume of the woman's Movement for Constructive authority on the history of Washington, and answers to all contest of them can easily be ascertained by a the volume. The island avenue committee to the students.

The island avenue to all branches of the contest of the woman's Movement for Constructive will be sent to the House Committee to all branches of them can easily be ascertained by a the volume. The island avenue to organizations of the woman's Movement for Constructive will be sent to the House Committee to all branches of them can easily be ascertained by a transfer of the woman's Movement for Constructive with the servant and the property of the woman's Movement for Constructive with the servant consists of the contest of the con